

## February 2015 Monthly Resources:



### Dear Common Core Implementation Team Member,

My NJDOE colleagues and I continue to partner with various professional development organizations to present Common Core and PARCC resources at workshops throughout the state. Our purpose is to get you the latest information, but, more importantly, to listen and learn directly from you about what you need to help students succeed.

In this blast my team has included some of the latest instructional and assessment tools offered through PARCC, Student Achievement Partners, CCSSO, NJDOE and local districts to help you prepare and plan for the assessments ahead.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to ease concerns of students, parents and community about the PARCC testing ahead. Please continue to let us know how to support you at [njcore@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:njcore@doe.state.nj.us)

Kimberley Harrington, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Academics



### General Common Core Resources

- **NJ Educator Resource Exchange (NJCore.org)**

What's new for February at NJCore.org? See what your colleagues and the "Featured Educators" group are uploading currently, and continue contributing your Common Core - aligned lessons, unit plans, assessments and other resources to the site.

[www.njcore.org](http://www.njcore.org)

- **The New Jersey Amistad Commission Interactive Curriculum**

The New Jersey Amistad Commission ensures the state's public schools implement materials and texts integrating the history and contributions of African-Americans and descendants of the African Diaspora. A redesigned website with Interactive Curriculum is now available with resources for teaching Common Core ELA and Social Studies. Browse lists of informational and literary texts, and access information on the 2015 NJ Amistad Summer Institute for educators.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/amistad/>

- **New! Veterans National Education Program with Standards-Aligned Lessons**

The Veterans National Education Program (V-NEP) has developed a website to help educators teach history through standards-aligned lessons, global awareness maps and other resources. According to the site, V-NEP has collaborated with the National Council for the Social Studies, Pennsylvania's Board of Education and State Council for the Social Studies, as well as classroom educators to produce the curriculum. Lesson plans include related multi-media materials and meet state standards for US Modern History and Modern History.

<http://v-nep.org/curriculum.html>

- **Student Achievement Partners' (SAP) latest Assessment Tools**

As a presenter for the recent NJASCD Leadership Summit on PARCC, Dr. Sandra Alberti, Director of State and District Partnerships and Professional Development for SAP, shared news of recently updated and/or newly developed Common Core-aligned assessment tools for educators. In addition to the tools below, see links to other materials she described under "Leadership Summit" in the PARCC section of this blast.

- An **Instructional Practice Guide Lesson Planning Tool**, to assist educators in reviewing and aligning lessons to the Common Core and related assessments was revised in December 2014 and is available on the SAP site. (See notice of free webinar demonstrating this tool on February 5 under Webinar section of this blast.)

<http://achievethecore.org/page/962/instructional-practice-guide-lesson-planning-detail-pg>

- **ELA mini-assessments** have been added to the SAP website as of January 21, 2015, to facilitate teacher and student preparation for PARCC and other assessments.

<http://achievethecore.org/dashboard/300/search/1/1/0/1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10/11/12/page/1035/annotated-mini-assessments-list-pg>

- The **Academic Word Finder** is designed to identify academic vocabulary from any given K-12 text. Developed by SAP, the tool allows educators to be "alert to the presence of Tier 2 words (academic vocabulary), determine which ones need to be taught, and which words deserve more time and effort in order to help students develop richer understanding."

<http://achievethecore.org/page/1027/academic-word-finder-detail-pg>

- **CCSSO and SAP Tools for "Navigating Text Complexity"** are designed to help educators in determining text complexity for K-12 informational and literary texts. The CCSSO site offers a guide to creating your own "text sets" as well as various grade level samples. SAP provides their "Text Complexity Collection" with similar tools and resources.

[http://www.ccsso.org/Navigating\\_Text\\_Complexity/Showroom\\_Models.html](http://www.ccsso.org/Navigating_Text_Complexity/Showroom_Models.html)

<http://achievethecore.org/page/642/text-complexity-collection>



## **Across the USA with CCSS and PARCC**

- **Louisiana Continues Sharing Common Core-Aligned Curricular Reviews**

Louisiana educators have been doing **Informal Instructional Materials Reviews** to find those aligned to Common Core ELA and Mathematics standards. These annotated reviews are then shared on the “Louisiana Believes” website. At the site below, check for texts and series already evaluated as well as those scheduled in the near future. The list is continually updated.

<http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/curricular-resources/informal-instructional-materials-reviews-as-of-february-7-2014.pdf?sfvrsn=75>



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- **PARCC website’s “Item of the Week”**

Check out the “Item of the Week” at the PARCC website for sample test items to provide parents and other members of the school community with a sense of the kinds of questions their students will find on the coming assessments. Also continue to check “News and Updates.”

<http://parconline.org/item-week-2015-01-08>

<http://parconline.org/item-week-2015-01-16>

- ***New!* NJDOE launches PARCC webpage**

The Department now has a webpage devoted to PARCC Assessments. Find helpful information on communicating with parents and the community about PARCC, as well as strategies and tools to assist with test administration.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/>

- **Leadership Summit on PARCC - January 21, 2015**

NJASCD and ASCD partnered with NJDOE, FEA and NJPSA to present the recent Leadership Summit on PARCC. Commissioner Hespe and his Assistant Commissioners in Academics, Student Performance and Teacher Evaluation shared updates on CCSS and PARCC. Presenters also included staff from PARCC, Student Achievement Partners (SAP), and local NJ districts. PowerPoints and links to specific materials discussed can be found on the NJPSA website.

<http://njpsa.org/?q=content/parcc-provides-early-insight-reports-ascd-leadership-summit>

- **Local NJ Districts Share PARCC Preparation Tools**

- **Marlboro Township School District** has created and posted a series of short videos, narrated by their Superintendent, Dr. Eric M. Hibbs, to help students prepare for success on the new Math and ELA PARCC assessments. The practices highlighted are those district staff think are important for students to be familiar with before navigating the new online format for both tests. We thank Dr. Hibbs and Marlboro Township School District for sharing these tools!

PARCC Mathematics How to be Successful Videos:

<http://www.marlboro.k12.nj.us/curriculum.cfm?subpage=67284>

PARCC English Language Arts/Literacy How to be Successful Videos:

<http://www.marlboro.k12.nj.us/curriculum.cfm?subpage=67355>

- **Northern Valley Curriculum Center (NVCC) and PARCC Resources**

Dr. Robert Price, Director of Curriculum and Instruction at NVCC, and his colleagues have posted a multitude of Common Core and PARCC resources on the “All Things CCSS and PARCC” webpage below. The comprehensive list of links and information includes new PARCC communications as well as materials developed by the NVCC staff. We thank Dr. Price and NVCC for sharing their work!

<http://nvcc.nvnet.org/Resources>



***Note:** We'd like to share more about what local districts are doing to help students, families and community better understand the benefits of CCSS and PARCC assessments. Send information to [nicore@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:nicore@doe.state.nj.us) and we'll post it here!*



## **Audio-Visual: Webinars, Radio, Videos and Apps**

- **Student Achievement Partners (SAP) Feb 5<sup>th</sup> Webinar on Lesson Planning Tool**

The Center on Standards and Assessment Implementation (CSAI) will host a free webinar on February 5<sup>th</sup> on the **Instructional Practice Guide Lesson Planning Tool** mentioned above. A new digital resource developed by SAP, the tool assists educators in developing or reviewing a Common Core-aligned lesson through questions evaluating content, design and materials.

<http://csai-online.org/event/741>

- **Implement the Common Core Standards (ICCS) Webinar Series**

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) webpage called “CCSS Forward” includes information on free current and archived webinars. Check the site to see what’s coming up in Spring 2015 and which 2014 presentations are available for review.

[http://www.ccsso.org/CCSS Forward State Resources and Success Stories to Implement the Common Core/Webinars and Newsletters.html](http://www.ccsso.org/CCSS%20Forward%20State%20Resources%20and%20Success%20Stories%20to%20Implement%20the%20Common%20Core/Webinars%20and%20Newsletters.html)

- **edWeb.net Professional Learning Communities on Common Core and Assessment**

<http://home.edweb.net/professional-learning-communities-with-free-webinars/>

- **Education Talk Radio Live and Archived Programs**

<https://educationtalkradio.wordpress.com/>

- **ASCD Free Webinars:**

<http://www.ascd.org/professional-development/webinars.aspx>

- **Education Week Free Webinars:**

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/marketplace/webinars/webinars.html?intc=thed>



## **YOU are a CCSS and PARCC Resource!**

- **ASCD Seeks Articles for Future Issues of Education Leadership**

ASCD invites educators to submit articles for publication in future issues of *Educational Leadership*. This website lists the themes planned for various monthly issues and deadlines by which to submit manuscripts.

<http://www.ascd.org/Publications/Educational-Leadership/Upcoming-Themes.aspx>

- **EdReports.org Seeks 2015 Content Review Team Members**

EdReports.org is a nonprofit organization seeking experienced educators to write reviews of Common Core-aligned Mathematics and ELA curricular materials to share on their website. Team reviews of K-8 Mathematics materials are underway, and they are currently seeking Content Reviewers for Spring 2015 to assess 9-12 Mathematics and K-12 ELA materials. Candidates who apply and are accepted receive compensation after completion of reviews.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CRTedReports>



## **Further Reading**

- **NJPSA's Patricia Wright offers Opinion Piece on PARCC tests**

Patricia Wright, Executive Director of the NJ Principals and Supervisors Association, has written an opinion piece for NJ.Com about the PARCC tests. She explains her perspective on the new online assessments, how they differ from previous tests and why they make sense for students.

[http://www.nj.com/opinion/index.ssf/2015/01/give\\_njs\\_new\\_parcc\\_tests\\_a\\_chance\\_opinion.html](http://www.nj.com/opinion/index.ssf/2015/01/give_njs_new_parcc_tests_a_chance_opinion.html)



## **NJDOE newsletters with more on CCSS and PARCC**

- For Educators...  
The Bridge at <http://education.state.nj.us/feature/>
- For Parents and Community Members...  
Family and Community Circle at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/parents/newsletter/>



## **Professional Development Opportunities**

- Find free NJDOE professional development offerings at our Calendar of Events.  
<http://education.state.nj.us/events/>
- Find many free and online professional development events on Education Week's new online calendar.  
[http://www.edweek.org/apps/calendar/search\\_events.html](http://www.edweek.org/apps/calendar/search_events.html)



**Do you know someone who isn't receiving these?**

Forward this to a colleague and encourage them to sign-up!  
<http://education.state.nj.us/ccit/subscribe.php>.



### Missed any CCIT mailings?

Find previous mailings at:  
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/team/ccit.pdf>



### How else can we help you?

Send us an e-mail at [njcore@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:njcore@doe.state.nj.us)

## NJCore.org What's Trending?

**New Features & Content on NJCORE.ORG** (<http://njcore.org/>)

- Badge awards for resource contributions levels.
- Featured content area on homepage

	Month (January)	Since Launch
<b>Number of Registered Educators</b>	8	2,074
<b>Number of Visitors</b>	8,318	123,493
<b>Top 5 Districts</b>	Newark	Trenton
	Jersey City	Passaic
	Trenton	Bayonne
	Brick	Newark
	Old Bridge Township	Jersey City